



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION**

**KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 374-A
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://board.co.la.ca.us/blc>**

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

9:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (12-1000)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: President Afriat, Vice President Campbell, Secretary Vasquez and Commissioner Lee

Absent: Commissioner Barger

Call to Order. (12-0869)

The meeting was called to order by President Afriat at 9:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance. (12-0870)

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Deputy Scott Hennessy, Sheriff's Department.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

1. Approval of Minutes from meeting of February 15, 2012. (12-0825)

On motion of Secretary Vasquez, seconded by President Afriat, this item was approved.

Ayes: 4 - President Afriat, Vice President Campbell, Secretary Vasquez and Commissioner Lee

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

President Afriat trailed agenda item 2 and called agenda item 4.

- 2.** Six Month Review on Food Establishment Business License ID #132194, for Eddie's Liquor, Seung H. Hong, owner located at 5024 E. Whittier Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90022 in the First District as requested at the meeting of August 24, 2011. (11-3824)

Nathan Freeman, representative for Seung H. Hong, owner of Eddie's Liquor was present.

Cristina Hernandez, Treasurer and Tax Collector's Office (TTC), advised that Deputy Scott Hennessy of the Sheriff's Department would provide an updated report on the six month review.

Deputy Hennessy reported there have been no further issues or problems and the owner is cooperating with the Sheriff's Department; and requested a five month review prior to the business license expiring. Ms. Hernandez advised that the license will expire on August 31, 2012.

Discussion ensued regarding the renewal of the license and further review by the Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Freeman reported that his client is in compliance with all of the conditions, with the exception of condition number six. Mr. Freeman stated that Mr. Hong and his wife have completed the License Education on Alcohol & Drugs (LEAD) program and Mr. Hong's brother, who also works at the location, is scheduled to take the LEAD program on April 11, 2012.

After discussion, on motion of Secretary Vasquez, seconded by President Afriat, the Commission continued this item to August 8, 2012 for a five month review.

Ayes: 4 - President Afriat, Vice President Campbell, Secretary Vasquez and Commissioner Lee

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)
[AUGUST 24, 2011 MEETING RESULTS](#)

III. PUBLIC HEARING

President Afriat called agenda item 3 after agenda item 4.

- 3.** Hearing on recommendation to deny Massage Parlor-General License ID #138866 for Shengbin Yang, Jin Hai-Health Clinic, located at 15592 Gale Ave. #1, Hacienda Heights, CA 91745 in the Fourth District. (12-0865)

Investigator Araceli Pedroza, Sheriff's Department advised the Commission that Shengbin Yang, the applicant was not fit to operate a massage parlor. She provided documentation and reported the following findings from her investigations:

- **She first met the applicant during a compliance check at a nearby business. During that compliance check Mr. Yang explained that he was an employee at the location and did not disclose that he practiced at Jin Hai-Health Clinic as well.**
- **Evidence of applicant practicing under a different name and falsely posing as a vocational nurse.**
- **Applicant does not post original certification as required at the current business or other locations he is associated with.**
- **Applicant failed to disclose as required on the business license application that he operates two massage businesses that are currently open and locations he has operated in the past. There were five locations closed in 2011.**
- **In 2009, the applicant was found operating without a business license.**
- **Employees being arrested for prostitution while employed by the applicant.**

The Commission questioned Mr. Yang's business practices and history of multiple businesses closing after a short period of being open.

Mr. Yang owner of Jin Hai-Health Clinic stated that he is no longer associated with the businesses Investigator Pedroza is reporting on and that he was not aware of technicians engaging in illegal activity and he immediately severed ties with the business once he found out about the activity. He clarified that he prefers short term lease agreements for his business locations so he can determine if the business is profitable within the leasing time frame and whether continuing the business is financially justifiable.

Investigator Pedroza informed the Commission that there currently is an arrest warrant that was issued in 2008 in Riverside County for Mr. Yang.

President Afriat reminded the applicant that this is a public hearing which can be used in any pending criminal action. He advised him that he has the right to be represented by counsel on the criminal action and the business license hearing. He asked Mr. Yang if he wanted to stop the hearing and come back at a later time once he has resolved the pending criminal charges or if he wanted to stop the hearing in order to obtain legal counsel. Mr. Yang chose to proceed with the hearing.

Cristina Hernandez, Treasurer and Tax Collector's Office (TTC), explained that Mr. Yang was interviewed through an interpreter while employed at other massage business locations in the area that were closed down for noncompliance. At the hearing, Mr. Yang conversed in English and appeared to comprehend the proceeding.

Commissioner Lee questioned Mr. Yang's employee screening processes. Mr. Yang stated that he does not do a background check on employees.

Ms. Hernandez stated that acupuncture currently is the only activity Mr. Yang is permitted however; she observed that there was no presence of acupuncture needles or client files that are commonly associated with an acupuncture clinic at the location.

After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Lee, seconded by Vice President Campbell, as amended by President Afriat, the Commission upheld the Sheriff's recommendation to deny Massage-Parlor General Business License ID #138866 for Shengbin Yang, Jin Hai-Health Clinic with the following findings of the Commission:

- History of criminal activity on part of the applicant and people associated with the applicant at Jin Hai-Health Clinic and other locations in control of the applicant.
- Inadequate controls in place for the applicant to properly manage and supervise employees and independent contractors.
- Photographic evidence of sexual paraphernalia present at the location while under control of the applicant that is unrelated to activities legal at the location.
- Insufficient evidence to refute the information brought forward by the Sheriff's Department.

Ayes: 4 - President Afriat, Vice President Campbell, Secretary Vasquez and Commissioner Lee

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

IV. REPORT

4. Report by County Counsel on the County licensing requirement. (12-0901)

Barbara Goul, County Counsel stated that Assembly Bill 619 (AB 619) became effective January 1, 2012. The bill relieves Los Angeles County of the responsibility or opportunity to regulate massage parlors that employ only State certified technicians. If the establishment employs one technician with a County license then the County would continue to license the business.

Alice Wong, Department of Regional Planning clarified that a current Conditional Use Permit would no longer be effective or required should the establishment employ only state certified technicians.

Cristina Hernandez, Treasurer and Tax Collector's Office (TTC), further explained that the Commission may continue to hold hearings for massage parlors that are only state certified if the owner had started the County licensing process prior to AB 619 taking effect and the owner chooses to complete the process.

5. Commissioners' Comments. (12-0871)

The Commission reviewed the calendar for March 2012. The next meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2012.

V. MISCELLANEOUS**Public Comment**

6. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Committee. (12-0872)

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

Adjournment

7. Adjournment for the meeting of February 29, 2012. (12-0873)

The Commission adjourned the meeting at 10:05 a.m.